

State Bar of California

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND PROGRAM

Equal Access Fund Grant Recipients -- Grant Year 2001-2002

AIDS LEGAL REFERRAL PANEL, San Francisco
ALAMEDA CO BAR VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES, Oakland
ALAMEDA COUNTY HOMELESS ACTION CENTER, Berkeley
ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, Los Angeles
ASIAN LAW CAUCUS, San Francisco
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER, Los Angeles
ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER LEGAL OUTREACH, San Francisco
BAY AREA LEGAL AID, Oakland
BENCHMARK INSTITUTE, San Francisco
BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES, Los Angeles
CALIF. ADVOCATES FOR NURSING HOME REFORM, San Francisco
CALIF. RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, Sacramento
CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR LAW AND THE DEAF, San Leandro
CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES, Oakland
CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC., San Francisco
CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER, Los Angeles
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ADVOCACY, Salinas
CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE RIGHTS, Los Angeles
CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONST. LAW, Los Angeles
CENTER FOR LAW IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, Los Angeles
CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER, Los Angeles
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA LEGAL SERVICES, Fresno
CENTRO LA FAMILIA ADVOCACY SERVICES, Fresno
CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA, Oakland
CHILD CARE LAW CENTER, San Francisco
COALITION OF CALIF. WELFARE RIGHTS ORGS., Sacramento
CONTRA COSTA SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES, Richmond

DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUC. AND DEFENSE FUND, Berkeley
EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW CENTER, Berkeley
EAST PALO ALTO COMMUNITY LAW PROJECT, East Palo Alto
EL RESCATE LEGAL SERVICES, Los Angeles
ELDER LAW & ADVOCACY, San Diego
FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW CENTER, Oakland
GREATER BAKERSFIELD LEGAL ASSISTANCE, Bakersfield
HARRIETT BUHAI CENTER FOR FAMILY LAW, Los Angeles
HOMEBASE/THE CENTER FOR COMMON CONCERNS, San Francisco
IMMIGRANT LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER, San Francisco
INLAND COUNTIES LEGAL SERVICES, Riverside
INLAND EMPIRE LATINO LAWYERS LEGAL AID, Riverside
INNER CITY LAW CENTER, Los Angeles
LA RAZA CENTRO LEGAL, San Francisco
LAW CENTER FOR FAMILIES, Oakland
LAW FOUNDATION OF SILICON VALLEY, San Jose
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, San Francisco
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES, Los Angeles
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF SANTA BARBARA, Santa Barbara
LEGAL AID OF THE NORTH BAY, San Rafael
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY, Santa Ana
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN BERNARDINO, San Bernardino
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO, San Diego
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, San Mateo
LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS, Oakland
LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY, San Francisco
LEGAL CENTER FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED, Sacramento
LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, San Francisco
LEGAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS, Seaside
LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, Sacramento
LEGAL SVCS. FOR PRISONERS WITH CHILDREN, San Francisco
LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE, Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES CO. BAR ASSOCIATION PROJECTS, Los Angeles
MALDEF, Los Angeles
MCGEORGE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, Sacramento
MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES, Los Angeles
META, San Francisco
NAT'L CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW, Oakland
NAT'L ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAW CENTER, Oakland
NAT'L HEALTH LAW PROGRAM, Los Angeles
NAT'L HOUSING LAW PROJECT, Oakland
NAT'L IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER, Los Angeles
NAT'L SENIOR CITIZENS LAW CENTER, Los Angeles
NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES, Pacoima
PRISON LAW OFFICE, San Quentin
PRO BONO PROJECT SILICON VALLEY, San Jose
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY, INC., Sacramento
PUBLIC ADVOCATES, San Francisco
PUBLIC COUNSEL, Los Angeles
PUBLIC INTEREST CLEARINGHOUSE, San Francisco
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW PROJECT, Oakland
PUBLIC LAW CENTER, Santa Ana
PUBLIC SERVICE LAW CORP. OF RIVERSIDE, Riverside
SAN DIEGO ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE, San Diego
SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM, San Diego
SAN FRANCISCO BAR VOLUNTEER LGL. SVCS., San Francisco
SANTA CLARA COUNTY ASIAN LAW ALLIANCE, San Jose
SANTA CLARA CTR. FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, San Jose
SANTA CLARA UNIV. EAST SAN JOSE LAW CTR., Santa Clara
SENIOR ADULTS LEGAL ASSISTANCE, San Jose
SENIOR ADVOCACY CTR OF NORTHERN CALI, Redding
SENIOR CITIZENS' LEGAL SERVICES, Santa Cruz
SENIOR LAW PROJECT, Lakeport
SONOMA COUNTY LEGAL AID, Santa Rosa

THE IMPACT FUND, Berkeley

THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO, San Francisco

UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW LEGAL CLINICS, Davis

USC LAW SCHOOL LITIGATION CLINICS, Los Angeles

USD SCHOOL OF LAW LEGAL CLINICS, San Diego

VOLUNTARY LGL. SVCS. OF NORTHERN CALIF., Sacramento

WESTERN CENTER ON LAW AND POVERTY, Los Angeles

WESTERN LAW CENTER FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS, Los Angeles

YOUTH LAW CENTER, San Francisco

YUBA-SUTTER LEGAL CENTER FOR SENIORS, Marysville

THE EQUAL ACCESS FUND IMPROVES THE LIVES OF INDIGENT CALIFORNIANS

Grants to 100 local and statewide legal services programs fund a vast range of help for California's indigent – legal aid that makes a real difference to real people. Low-income clients get telephone hotline advice and self-help packets to understand their rights and solve problems early, and a lawyer to represent them when necessary. Low-income community groups get legal advice and transactional help to bring economic development and jobs, fair housing, child care, and better schools to their neighborhoods. Local legal aid boards set priorities for using their limited funds, expanding successful projects and launching important new work.

These are examples of some of the tens of thousands of indigent Californians being helped through projects funded by the Equal Access Fund.

CHILDREN

- **Adoptions.** Nearly 2,000 children in foster care in Los Angeles will be adopted this year with the help of a full-time attorney and hundreds of volunteers (lawyers, law students and paralegals) who do the legal work, in an existing project expanded with these funds. This makes it possible for disadvantaged children, many of them hard to place and with special needs, to get permanent homes.
- **Health Care.** In a Health Care Partnership for Children, attorneys teamed up with hospitals and medical centers to solve the legal problems of health care for another 750 children in foster care in Los Angeles. The attorneys handle Medi-Cal issues, get court approval for medical procedures, and address special legal needs of disabled children. The project is expanding to include poor children living with parents.
- **Guardianship.** Over 100 guardianships allowed caregivers, mostly relatives, to stabilize the lives of San Francisco Bay Area minors who cannot live with their parents, helping prevent unnecessary foster care placements. Such services, also offered in other counties, can protect children from an abusive parent, prevent a return to an unsafe home, and ensure appropriate educational opportunities.

FAMILIES

- **Education.** Improving the quality of public education in low-income neighborhoods is the goal of an educational opportunities project in Los Angeles County. A "Know Your Rights" campaign teaches 2,500 children and parents to take full advantage of educational opportunities and participate in making the schools stronger. The project recently testified

at the request of the school district at a hearing about legal issues that affect the need to build new schools.

- **Domestic Violence.** Five hundred victims of domestic violence in San Bernardino County will get help from a legal advocacy project this year. The project is making special efforts to reach people who would otherwise have no help, including those in outlying areas of the county, immigrant women, ethnic minority elderly persons, and the deaf and hearing impaired. Clients often need help not only to get restraining orders, but also with their family law cases. They may face eviction because of repeated police calls, and may need to file immigration petitions under a federal law designed to protect immigrant victims of domestic violence.

SENIORS

- **Rural Outreach.** Homebound and institutionalized elderly people in Lake and Mendocino Counties are getting legal help as the result of a small \$6,000 grant that reaps big rewards: a ten percent increase in services makes it possible to serve those who cannot make it to a senior center to see their lawyer.
- **Medicare.** In Los Angeles a telephone hotline that provides information and advice about legal problems related to Medicare coverage and HMO's has increased its staffing so the number of people it can serve is up about 15,000 from previous years.
- **Alzheimer's Patients.** Low-income victims of Alzheimer's Disease and their families in Los Angeles are helped by a bilingual attorney who deals with their special legal problems. In a typical case a destitute elderly couple could not refinance their home because the wife was not competent to sign. With a court order, the husband could handle the refinance and the couple is self-sufficient once again.
- **Home Equity Fraud.** Elderly victims of home equity fraud are the focus of both new and expanded projects. Recent dramatic increases in property values have stepped up the activities of "foreclosure specialists" and others who skim off home equity through refinancing schemes. In one current case, an elderly victim is fighting the loss of an estimated \$300,000 in home equity and all of her possessions just from an initial delay in paying off a \$2,400 loan.

WELFARE-TO-WORK

- **Child Care.** A statewide support center offers legal support to low-income communities to increase child care, so more parents can enter the work force. Lawyers educate low-income family day care providers and their landlords about their legal protections and responsibilities; they work to reduce zoning barriers to child care and to increase the use of tax credits for child care in new housing; and they provide information about how the

ADA applies to the estimated 15 to 20 percent of children on welfare who have some degree of disability.

- **Evening Hotline.** In Orange County a hotline that answers legal questions, provides legal advice, and makes referrals to appropriate agencies has expanded services to stay open until 8:00 four days a week to better serve the substantial number of its indigent clients who work full time. Two paralegals, supervised by an attorney, are helping an extra 2000 clients a year during the evening hours.
- **Barriers to Employment.** Low-income people often face substantial barriers when they try for a living wage job. Projects in several areas of the state have been asked for help by community-based organizations that do job training and placement to get people off welfare. Legal aid has gotten agreements from employers to hire low-income people on publicly-funded projects; has provided information about the rules for expungement of criminal records; and has run legal clinics about DMV rules for valid driver's licenses and insurance coverage.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS;

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **New Enterprise.** As counsel to the West Fresno Coalition for Economic Development (a community-based group of residents in a blighted area of Fresno) legal aid provided an example to the whole state when it helped bring 250 new permanent jobs to the neighborhood in the form of a fully leased shopping center, soon to be followed by a police field operations office, a pediatric clinic, and a targeted housing improvement program. With the Equal Access Fund, a new staff unit will offer the kind of services that produced this success to low-income community groups in surrounding counties.
- **Individual Development Accounts.** In 23 counties in northern California, one project offers legal expertise and help with complicated legal transactions to community initiatives for affordable housing, welfare-to-work transition centers, child care programs, and "living wage" job placements. One result is Individual Development Accounts that let tenants in publicly-subsidized housing earmark part of their rent payment to a savings account they can use later to buy a home, go to school, or start a business. The amounts, matched by a community organization, increase when the property is well-maintained. Tenants have an incentive to stay, and a way of building capital to reach the first rung on the ladder to economic independence.
- **Veterans.** A client of a Homeless Veterans Project in Los Angeles suffered from a head injury and amnesia after a fall that resulted from an inner ear problem. A staff paralegal established the man's identity by researching his tattoos, which showed he had belonged to an army infantry unit. This led to his military records, an application for VA benefits and an ID that allowed him to get temporary housing, General Relief and Food Stamps, and eventually a job and a rented home. For other clients, the project helps get disability

pensions, job training, vocational rehabilitation, veterans' preference for government jobs, and health care.

- **Evictions.** In San Francisco, 160 volunteer *pro bono* lawyers contribute 4,000 hours of legal work to represent low-income tenants at risk of eviction, about half of them families with children. Judging from past experience, 20 percent of the tenants will win the right to stay in their current housing and about 70 percent will settle with their landlords and be better able to find other housing and avoid becoming homeless.
- **Affordable Housing.** A 94-unit low-income housing development in Redding was nearly uninhabitable because of years of neglect. With help from lawyers, the remaining residents were able to postpone a HUD foreclosure, find a non-profit developer to rehabilitate the buildings, and preserve the living units for very low income persons for the next 55 years.

DISABLED CHILDREN AND ADULTS

- **Fair Housing.** Developmentally and mentally disabled individuals can consult with a lawyer about their problems with housing, including housing discrimination on the basis of a disability and land use and zoning issues that create barriers to housing for people with disabilities.
- **Mental Health.** Children and youth with mental health needs often fall through the cracks because of confusion about services available for evaluation and treatment. A statewide project helped get a thorough review for an 11-year-old with many psychiatric hospital admissions; the result was better control of his illness with fewer medications. A support center publishes information and answers questions from local advocates about services that can help these children with special needs.
- **Assistive Devices.** Severely disabled people often struggle without the most basic help, either because of uncooperative vendors or unclear policies that result in denial of essential services. A statewide project enabled a man who could not speak following a stroke to get a device that allowed him to communicate, a woman to get a replacement for a defective wheelchair, and people all over the state to get prompt emergency wheelchair repairs.

COURTHOUSE HELP FOR THE UNREPRESENTED (PARTNERSHIP GRANTS)

- **Self-Help Centers.** Low-income people who must handle their own court cases can get help filling out the paperwork, manuals with self-help instructions, and other assistance at offices based in about 20 different courthouse locations around the state. Depending on

the area, clinics and/or one-on-one assistance help with family law cases, domestic violence, debt collection defense, consumer matters, landlord-tenant disputes, wage claims, and small claims court.

- **Benefits to Courts.** Besides helping poor people, these projects produce benefits for the courts, where unrepresented litigants take extra time and need extra help. A judge reported about one project, "I can already see that people are coming in here better able to present to the court what they need and what they want." In another county the court clerk said, "[T]he services and assistance at the Center saves time for the clerks, the typed forms are really beneficial, and we just wish you were open everyday."

LEGAL SERVICES TRUST FUND PROGRAM

2001-2002 GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Grants Based on the IOLTA Allocation Formula

From IOLTA Fund and Equal Access Fund

July 16, 2001

	EQUAL ACCESS FUND
Program Name	10/1/01 - 9/30/02
AIDS LEGAL REFERRAL PANEL	\$7,458
ALAMEDA CO BAR VOLUNTEER LEGAL SVCS.	23,436
ALAMEDA COUNTY HOMELESS ACTION CENTER	9,778
ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS	104,917
ASIAN LAW CAUCUS	16,864
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER	110,757
BAY AREA LEGAL AID	159,399
BENCHMARK INSTITUTE	53,437
BET TZEDEK LEGAL SERVICES	306,314
CA ADVOCATES FOR NURSING HOME REFORM	53,437
CALIF. RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE FNDN.	53,437
CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR LAW AND THE DEAF	12,496
CALIFORNIA INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES	133,011
CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE, INC.	659,862
CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S LAW CENTER	53,437
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ADVOCACY	15,071
CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE RIGHTS	67,669
CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONST. LAW	53,437
CENTER FOR LAW IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST	30,088
CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER	35,731
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA LEGAL SERVICES	327,004
CENTRO LA FAMILIA ADVOCACY SERVICES	18,627
CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA	3,990
CHILD CARE LAW CENTER	53,437
COALITION OF CALIF. WELFARE RIGHTS ORGS.	53,437
CONTRA COSTA SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES	11,149
DISABILITY RIGHTS EDUC. AND DEFENSE FUND	53,437

EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW CENTER	43,361
EAST PALO ALTO COMMUNITY LAW PROJECT	11,540
EL RESCATE LEGAL SERVICES	9,756
ELDER LAW & ADVOCACY	34,361
EMPLOYMENT LAW CENTER OF L.A.S. OF S.F.	105,038
FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW CENTER	18,682
GREATER BAKERSFIELD LEGAL ASSISTANCE	107,300
HARRIETT BUHAI CENTER FOR FAMILY LAW	72,584
HOMEBASE/THE CTR FOR COMMON CONCERNS	33,928
IMMIGRANT LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER	53,437
INLAND COUNTIES LEGAL SERVICES	302,084
INLAND EMPIRE LATINO LAWYERS LEGAL AID	20,923
INNER CITY LAW CENTER	37,817
LA RAZA CENTRO LEGAL	22,509
LAW CENTER FOR FAMILIES	17,001
LAW FOUNDATION OF SILICON VALLEY	54,431
LAWYERS' COMMITTEE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS	47,662
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES	608,006
LEGAL AID FOUNDATION OF SANTA BARBARA	27,694
LEGAL AID OF THE NORTH BAY	18,584
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY	338,970
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN BERNARDINO	52,648
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN DIEGO	265,160
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY	41,065
LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS	36,873
LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY	9,742
LEGAL CENTER FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED	12,374
LEGAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN	27,061
LEGAL SERVICES FOR SENIORS	24,442
LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA	350,569
LEGAL SVCS. FOR PRISONERS WITH CHILDREN	53,437
LOS ANGELES CENTER FOR LAW AND JUSTICE	45,058
LOS ANGELES CO. BAR ASSN. PROJECTS	33,047
MALDEF	53,437
MCGEORGE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES	29,585
MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES	48,550
META	53,437
NAT'L CENTER FOR YOUTH LAW	53,437
NAT'L ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAW CTR.	53,437
NAT'L HEALTH LAW PROGRAM	53,437

NAT'L HOUSING LAW PROJECT	53,437
NAT'L IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER	53,437
NAT'L SENIOR CITIZENS LAW CENTER	53,437
NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES	324,720
NIHONMACHI LEGAL OUTREACH	32,651
PRISON LAW OFFICE	66,999
PRO BONO PROJECT SILICON VALLEY	29,809
PROTECTION & ADVOCACY, INC.	816,844
PUBLIC ADVOCATES	67,312
PUBLIC COUNSEL	317,828
PUBLIC INTEREST CLEARINGHOUSE	53,437
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW PROJECT	53,437
PUBLIC LAW CENTER	88,008
PUBLIC SERVICE LAW CORP. OF RIVERSIDE	27,404
SAN DIEGO ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE	9,890
SAN DIEGO VOLUNTEER LAWYER PROGRAM	107,362
SAN FRANCISCO BAR VOLUNTEER LGL. SVCS.	56,666
SANTA CLARA COUNTY ASIAN LAW ALLIANCE	19,247
SANTA CLARA CTR./OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY	53,437
SANTA CLARA UNIV. EAST SAN JOSE LAW CTR.	27,862
SENIOR ADULTS LEGAL ASSISTANCE	18,819
SENIOR ADVOCACY CTR OF NORTHERN CALIF	24,967
SENIOR CITIZENS' LEGAL SERVICES	14,611
SENIOR LAW PROJECT	5,017
SONOMA COUNTY LEGAL AID	17,689
THE IMPACT FUND	53,437
UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF LAW LEGAL CLINICS	32,152
USC LAW SCHOOL LITIGATION CLINICS	30,211
USD SCHOOL OF LAW LEGAL CLINICS	43,962
VOLUNTARY LGL. SVCS. OF NORTHERN CALIF.	37,166
WEST END LEGAL AID CLINIC	21,547
WESTERN CENTER ON LAW AND POVERTY	53,437
WESTERN LAW CENTER FOR DISABILITY RTS.	55,979
YOUTH LAW CENTER	53,437
YUBA-SUTTER LEGAL CENTER FOR SENIORS	10,726
TOTALS	\$8,549,962